

July 21, 1940

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Will
EISNER

BELEIVED DEAD AND BURIED IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY, DENNY COLT, CRIMINOLOGIST, AWOKE FROM A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION. . . USING HIS GRAVE AS HIS HEAD-QUARTERS, HE CONTINUES HIS FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, AS **THE SPIRIT**.

NORTH OF WILDWOOD CEMETERY, LIES THE CITY. ON CLEAR NIGHTS ONE CAN SEE THE TALL BUILDINGS THAT RISE ABOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS NEAR THE TOP OF THE TALLEST, A LIGHT OF ONE WINDOW CAN ALWAYS BE SEEN. IT IS THE APARTMENT OF ELDAS THAYER, THE OLD FINANCIER. . .

TONIGHT HE HAS A VISITOR, DR. CLAY, THE FAMOUS HEART SPECIALIST. . .

ELDAS THAYER, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE IN TWENTY FOUR HOURS!



GET OUT, YOU QUACK!
GET OUT!
GET OUT!

I'M SORRY, ELDA'S.
IT'S YOUR HEART
AND YOUR
CONFOUNDED
TEMPER! NO
WONDER EVERY
ONE HATES
YOU! GOOD-
BYE!



AS THE DOCTOR LEAVES, A TALL
FIGURE DETACHES HIMSELF
FROM THE SHADOWS...

TH...
THE
SPIRIT!



WHAT DO YOU
WANT OF ME?
I TOLD YOU
BEFORE I'LL
NEVER GIVE
THAT NIECE
OF MINE A
CENT! LET
HER DIE LIKE
ME! BAH!

THAYER, IF THAT
POOR GIRL DIES,
YOU'LL BE A
MURDERER!...
GIVE HER
THAT OPERATION
MONEY. YOU'RE
GOING TO DIE
ANYWAY! BE
HUMAN!



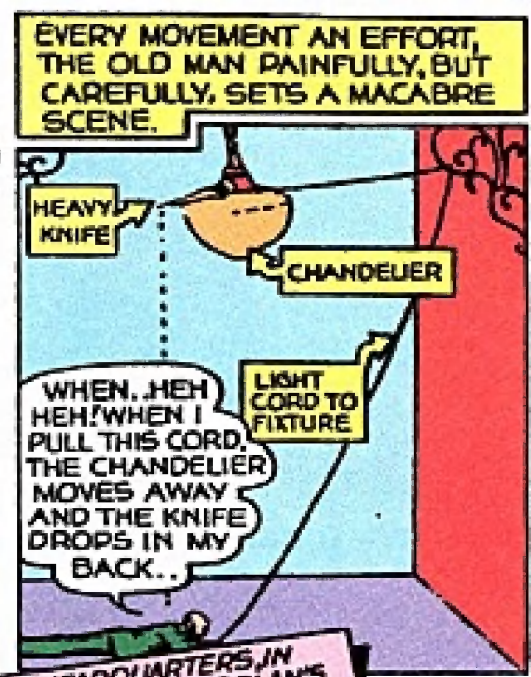
NO! AND
THAT'S
FINAL!

VERY WELL, THEN
GOODBYE, AND I
HOPE IN YOUR LAST
HOURS, YOUR
CONSCIENCE GIVES
YOU NO PEACE!
YOU OLD SKINFINT!
I'D LIKE TO WRING
YOUR NECK!



ALONE, ELDA'S THAYER MUSES...
HIS COMING DEATH SHAKES
HIM...

WRING MY NECK, WOULD
HE!? HE'S BRAVE AND STRONG,
BUT I CAN FIGHT TOO!... IN A WAY
THAT'LL HURT HIM... SO LIVING
WILL BE A BURDEN... YES!
I HAVE A WAY!... HA HA HA!
HA HA!



EVERY MOVEMENT AN EFFORT,
THE OLD MAN PAINFULLY, BUT
CAREFULLY, SETS A MACABRE
SCENE.

HEAVY
KNIFE

CHANDELIER

LIGHT
CORD TO
FIXTURE

WHEN... HEH
HEH! WHEN I
PULL THIS CORD,
THE CHANDELIER
MOVES AWAY
AND THE KNIFE
DROPS IN MY
BACK...



WHAT DOES IT MATTER
IF I DIE NOW, OR IN
TWENTY FOUR HOURS.
I'LL BE ABLE TO
AVENGE MYSELF
ON THE SPIRIT... HE
REPRESENTS
GOOD, AND I,
EVIL... HA HA!



THE CORD IS
PULLED!

AND WHEN THE
POLICE ARRIVE...

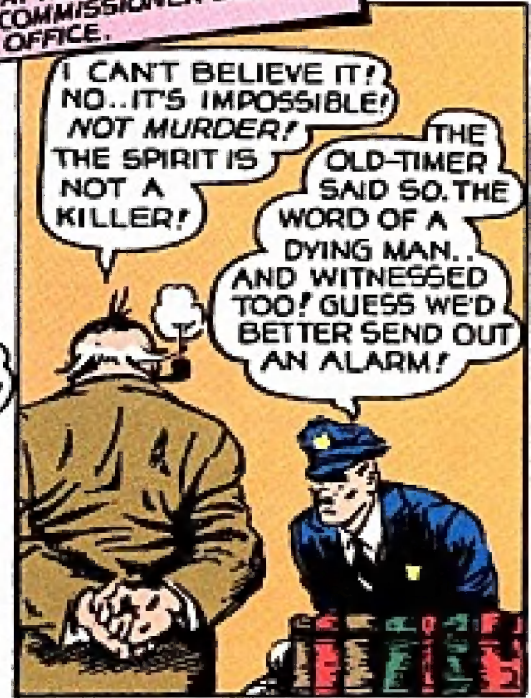
WHO KNIFED
YOU?

THE
SPIRIT...
HE KILLED
ME!

ODD

HE'S
DONE
FOR!

VAAA
GASP!



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
NO... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
NOT MURDER!
THE SPIRIT IS
NOT A
KILLER!

THE
OLD-TIMER
SAID SO. THE
WORD OF A
DYING MAN...
AND WITNESSED
TOO! GUESS WE'D
BETTER SEND OUT
AN ALARM!

MEANWHILE, IN THE STREET BELOW



GUESS I'LL HAVE TO USE MY OWN MONEY, BUT I'LL GET DOLAN TO DONATE IT IN THAYER'S NAME. AS THE SPIRIT, I MIGHT HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

A FEW MINUTES LATER THE SPIRIT CLIMBS THROUGH DOLAN'S WINDOW.



HELLO, DOLAN! JUST BEEN TO VISIT THAYER..ER..HERE'S SOME MONEY HE..ER..GAVE ME TO DONATE TO HIS NIECE'S HOSPITAL BILL!

THE SPIRIT!



SPIRIT! WHY DID YOU DO IT? GOOD GOSH! YOU'RE NOT A KILLER!

DO WHAT? SAY, WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, DOLAN?

AT THAT MOMENT, THE DOOR FLIES OPEN.



THERE HE IS! ARREST HIM, COMMISSIONER?

MAYOR ALDRICH!!



I HEARD THE WHOLE STORY BEFORE I CAME IN... HE'S GOT THE MONEY, COMMISSIONER AND I HEARD HIM ADMIT IT CAME FROM THAYER. IT'S A CLEAR-CUT CASE!... SEEMS TO ME, DOLAN, THAT YOU'RE A FRIEND OF THIS MAN!

DID YOU, KID??? DENY IT AND I'LL BACK YOU UP!



FOR A MOMENT THE SPIRIT HESITATES HE MUST DECIDE TO PROTECT HIS FRIEND OR SAVE HIMSELF... AT LAST

YES! I KILLED HIM!



BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST!



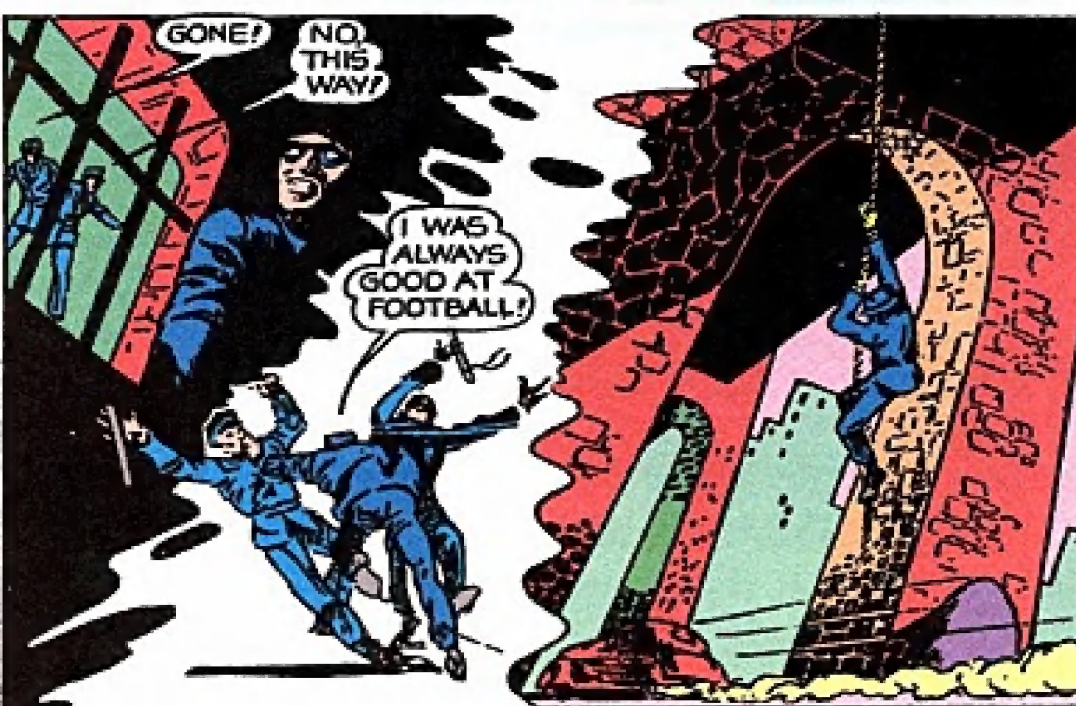
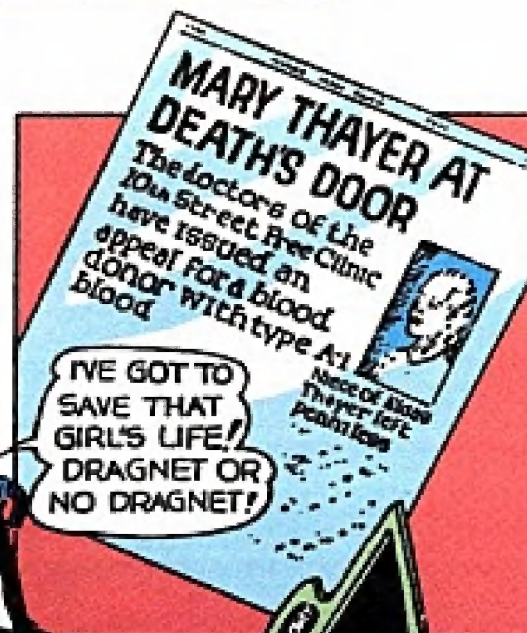
SHOOT HIM, DOLAN! SHOOT HIM! IT'S YOUR DUTY!



I CAN'T... I... C.. CAN'T K... KILL HIM!

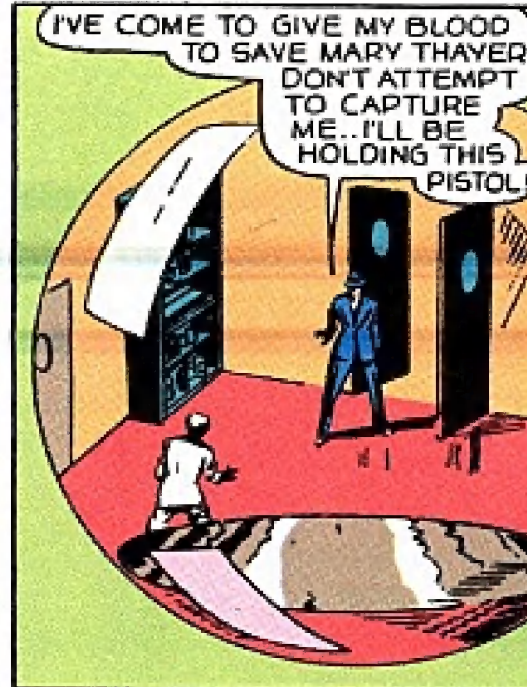
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THE FOLLOWING DAYS RING WITH BLARING HEADLINES.

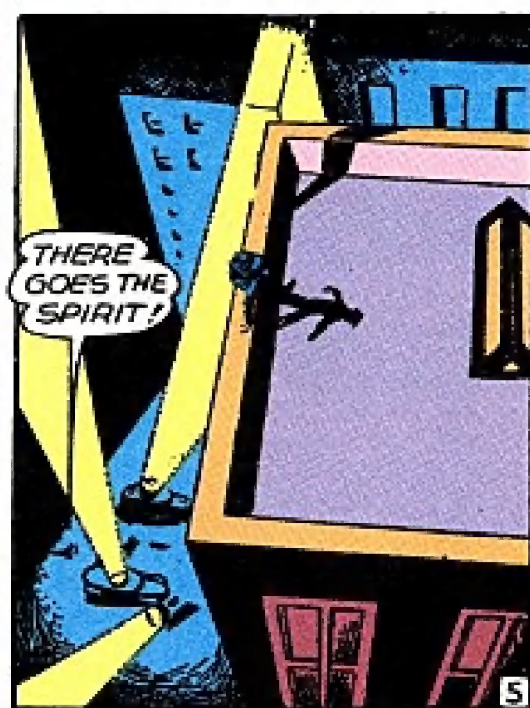


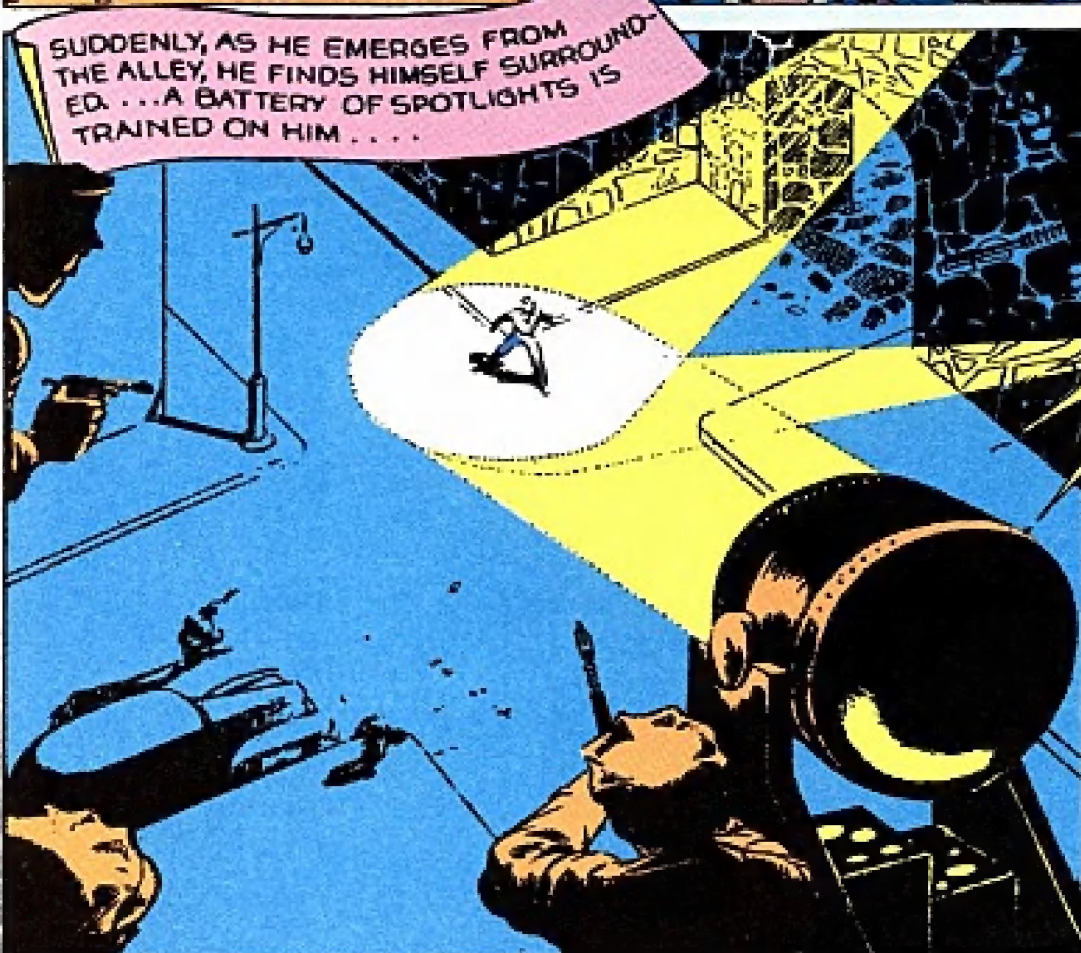
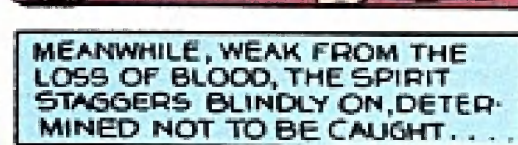


AT THE 10TH. Street Clinic...



AT HEADQUARTERS, DOLAN RESIGNS HIMSELF TO HIS TASK...





THE NEXT DAY, IN THE JAIL.



THE COMMISSIONER TO SEE YOU, SPIRIT.



HOW ARE YOU, KID?

FINE THANKS, DOLAN. THANKS FOR NOT LETTING THEM REMOVE MY MASK AND FIND OUT WHO I REALLY AM.



I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T BE A SECRET LONG..YOUR TRIAL COMES UP SOON... KID, TELL ME THE TRUTH! IF YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T KILL THAYER, I'LL BACK YOU UP! BY JOVE, I'LL RESIGN!

THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF. NO, DOLAN, I-ER-I DID IT!



OH, BEFORE YOU GO, I'D LIKE A DECK OF CARDS TO PLAY WITH.

SURE, KID (GULP) SO LONG. FROM NOW ON, WE'VE GOT TO BE ENEMIES!



LATER

I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE TONIGHT! NOW LET'S SEE..THIS PIPE LEG OF MY BED IS FINE!

NOW FOR A CANDLE. THE CARDS HAVE BEEN SOAKED LONG ENOUGH.

CARDS ARE POUNDED INTO A PULPY MASS

AND THE HOMEMADE BOMB IS HEATED BY CANDLE.

STUFFED TIGHTLY INTO THE PIPE

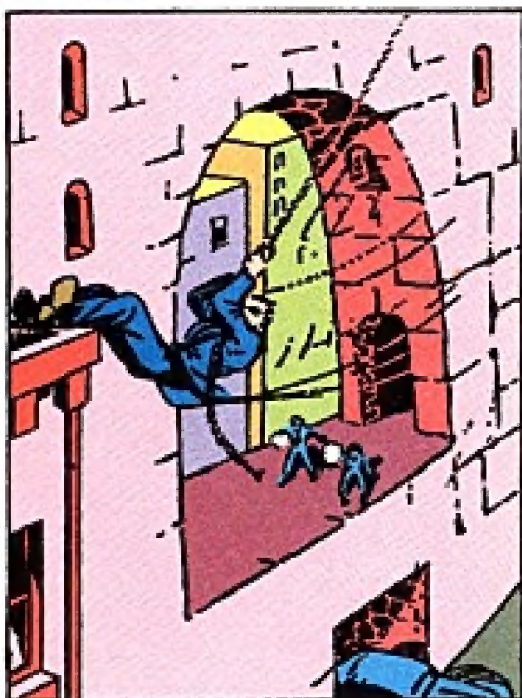


LATE THAT NIGHT..

AND THE SPIRIT LEAPS TO FREEDOM.



TSK TSK..MADE A MESS OF DOLAN'S NICE JAIL!



SO LONG, DOLAN. HATE TO HAVE YOU THINK I'M A KILLER, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO QUIT YOUR JOB BECAUSE OF ME!



I'LL CONTINUE TO FIGHT CRIME, BUT FROM NOW ON WITHOUT THE AID OF THE POLICE!

AND ONCE AGAIN THE SETTING SUN IS A BACKGROUND FOR THE TALL FORM OF THE SPIRIT..AS HE HEADS DOWN ADVENTURE'S TRAIL...